

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225558

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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PAGE 02 STATE 225558

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 225558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: THIRD MEETING OF CGFPI

1. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES--CGFPI WILL HOLD ITS THIRD MEETING SEPTEMBER 22-24 IN MANILA IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

2. CGFPI WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1975 UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE FAO, THE UNDP AND THE IBRD PURSUANT TO A RECOMMENDATION OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ORDER "(A) TO ENCOURAGE A LARGER FLOW OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES FOR FOOD PRODUCTION,

(B) TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF DIFFERENT MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND (C) TO ENSURE A MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES." ITS FIRST AND SECOND MEETINGS WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON.

3. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CGFPI OR OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN FORMULATING HOST GOVERNMENTS' POSITIONS FOR THAT MEETING AND CONVEY TO THEM THE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING THE US POSITION.

--THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS A UNIQUE POTENTIAL WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE A MORE EFFECTIVE FLOW AND UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES, INCLUDING BOTH DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES, INTO FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS ACTIVITY CAN MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF RESOURCE TRANSFERS FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. THE CGFPI IS A SUITABLE VEHICLE FOR RELATING EXISTING AND (POTENTIALLY INCREASED) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 225558

RESOURCE FLOWS TO THOSE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WITH BOTH A POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDING FOOD OUTPUT AND A POLICY ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL SECTOR.

--BECAUSE OF ITS INFORMAL PROCEDURE AND ITS SMALL SIZE, THE CGFPI CAN DEAL WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES WITHOUT CONFRONTING THE INERTIA OF LARGER BODIES. THIS IS AN

ADVANTAGE AND THEREFORE, THE US BELIEVES THAT CGFPI SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT AND GIVEN A REASONABLE CHANCE TO MATURE.

--CLEARLY THE CGFPI HAS NOT YET REALIZED ITS FULL POTENTIAL. ITS THIRD MEETING, TO BE HELD THIS MONTH, IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT, IN THE US VIEW, BECAUSE THE CGFPI MUST NOW DEMONSTRATE ITS ABILITY TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE.

--WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHAIRMAN MARTIN AND HIS STAFF HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN THEIR ADVANCE AGREEMENT TO SUBMIT COUNTRY FOOD PLANS WHICH COULD BE ASSESSED BY THE CGFPI IN FUTURE MONTHS. PROPERLY HANDLED, PREPARATION AND ANALYSIS OF COUNTRY FOOD PLANS COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THE CGFPI WAS ESTABLISHED. SUCH AN EXERCISE COULD BE OF UTILITY TO THE UNITED STATES IN FORMULATING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND WE EXPECT IT COULD ALSO HELP OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN MAKING DECISIONS REGARDING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE.

--ACCORDINGLY, SUCH DEMONSTRATED EFFECTIVENESS WOULD MERIT THE SUPPORT OF THE CGFPI'S SPONSORING BODIES FOR AT LEAST AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.

--CONVERSELY, IF THE CGFPI PROVES UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE A USEFUL ROLE IMMEDIATELY AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES CANNOT REACH A CLEAR CONSENSUS ON ITS POTENTIAL ROLE, THE USG BELIEVES THAT THE THIRD MEETING IS THE OPPORTUNE TIME TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE BODY'S FUTURE. THE REPORT OF THIS MEETING SHOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR EXPLICIT CONSIDERATION BY THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS OF WHETHER THE CGFPI SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 225558

BE CONTINUED FURTHER.

2. INFO ADDRESSEES MAY, AT THEIR DISCRETION, DRAW FROM THE FOREGOING POINTS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.

3. FOR OTTAWA: CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, JR., ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHO WILL BE US DELEGATE, WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OTTAWA TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 14, TO DISCUSS THE US POSITION WITH THE CANADIAN DELEGATE, GILLES LALANDE, V.P. OF CIDA. REQUEST EMBASSY ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR HERTER WITH LALANDE AND, IF DESIRED, DESIGNATE AN OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO THE APPOINTMENT.

4. REQUEST ALL ADDRESSEES REPORT COMPOSITION OF HOST
GOVERNMENTS' DELEGATIONS AND INFORMATION THEY RECEIVE
ON HOST GOVERNMENTS' POSITIONS FOR THE THIRD MEETING
OF THE CGFPI. ROBINSON

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